



HARVARD JOHN A. PAULSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

## Active Learning Laboratories

To Whom It May Concern,

February 10th, 2019

I am writing this letter in support of **Mithun Nag Karadi Giridhar**.

This is Anas Chalah, Assistant Dean for Teaching and Learning at Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. I oversee the Active Learning Labs, where Mithun worked under the close supervision of Dr. Melissa Hancock, our Biological and Environmental Engineering lab manager, and her team during the period of March - August, 2018. We hired Mithun to assist with experimental preparations and teaching support for Environmental Engineering's introductory course. Mithun did an excellent job that resulted in Dr. Hancock's decision to extend of his engagement with our team beyond his initial three month appointment.

During that period, Mithun assisted Dr. Hancock and her group in the preparation for four back-to-back summer programs. Mithun's enthusiasm and work ethic shined while working with several staff scientists to teach twelve visiting Peruvian undergraduate students how to design and fabricate a microfluidic device to measure soil nutrients. He also assisted with designing and delivering an advanced one hour lecture on soil nutrients. In addition to the soil nutrients program, Mithun assisted with curriculum development and teaching for our international water engineering program. He provided hands-on support for the purification of microplastics from contaminated water, and the students expressed their enthusiasm for his good nature in the laboratory.

As Dr. Hancock states: "Mithun has a *what can I do for you?* attitude, eagerly volunteering to roll up his sleeves and help out". He was able to work independently and quickly pick-up new techniques. For example, in the spring he practiced and mastered microfluidic techniques using pneumatic pumps, and was able to train others on these skillsets. Additionally, he was able to use this acquired knowledge to teach undergraduates students on how to create nanoparticle for drug encapsulation. Mithun's personality is cheerful, and he was an honest team member. If a laboratory mistake or misunderstanding happened, he never hesitated to take the needed corrective measures while bringing the issue to his manager's attention.

Mithun will make a wonderful addition to any institution he joins. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anas Chalah | Assistant Dean for Teaching and Learning  
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